United Nations A/61/770–S/2007/117

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 March 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 87, 90 and 93

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

General and complete disarmament

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Identical letters dated 27 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to send you this letter regarding the danger represented by Israeli nuclear capabilities, on behalf of the Arab States Members and Observers of the United Nations (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Yemen, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Djibouti, the Union of the Comoros, the Somali Republic, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Palestine (observer)).

1. The Arab States Members and Observers of the United Nations express their deep concern and grave uneasiness over reference made in Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's interview with German television on 11 December 2006 to his country's possession of nuclear weapons, considering it "not to be the first country in the Middle East to produce nuclear weapons"[1] and using the pretext that Israel does not pose a threat to neighbouring States as does Iran.

2. Although this declaration comes as no surprise, in view of the Arab States' and international community's previous knowledge of the almost certain military nature of Israeli nuclear programmes, the significance of this statement is that it constitutes the first Israeli declaration to come from such a high level, and as such represents a

[1] *Translator's note*: I believe the intention here is to quote the Prime Minister's statement that "Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East".

07-25465 (E) 020307 020307

new confirmation of international and Arab suspicions regarding Israel's nuclear capabilities.

3. The Arab States consider Israel's possession of military nuclear capabilities to represent a clear violation of the will of the international community embodied in General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the threat of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, in particular Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which calls upon Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and notes that Israel has not adhered to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It is also a violation of resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East, the provisions and objectives of the NPT, and the resolution on the Middle East issued by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. This is in addition to it conflicting with initiatives calling for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, in the Middle East, of which the most recent was the Arab initiative of 2003 which is still in blue before the Security Council.

4. From another perspective, the declaration by the Prime Minister of Israel regarding his country's possession of nuclear weapons highlights how important it is for the various multilateral international forums, above all the General Assembly, the Security Council and the IAEA, to undertake their responsibilities effectively, seriously and without delay, in accordance with relevant resolutions, to confront this grave threat to international and regional security in a way that is reflected in practical steps regarding existing cooperation programmes with Israel in the nuclear area.

5. The declarations by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel and other declarations reconfirm the fears of the States of the region and the entire international community about the danger threatening international security and peace. At the same time, the international community remains powerless to induce Israel to accede to the NPT, to which all the Arab States have acceded, and to place its nuclear facilities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. This reveals clearly the double standard that is being followed in the region in accordance with political interests, which is also reflected by the obstruction of the draft resolution put forward by the Arab Group to the fiftieth session of the IAEA General Conference under this agenda item. This is unacceptable and cannot continue.

6. The Arab States reserve their right to take all necessary measures to deal with the threat represented by Israeli nuclear capacities through the various decision-making agencies of the United Nations and related frameworks.

7. Finally, we ask that the text of this letter be circulated among the Member States as a document of the Security Council, and of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 87 and 90.

(*Signed*) Abdullah Ahmed **Al-Murad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

United Nations S/2007/118

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 March 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 28 February 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 December 2002 (S/PRST/2002/33), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 23 February 2007, which I received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting the report on the activities of the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina covering the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-25482 (E) 060307

Annex

Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In accordance with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 December 2002 (S/PRST/2002/33), I attach a report on the activities of the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006.

I propose to provide the Security Council with a written update on the progress of the Mission.

I would be grateful if you transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina covering the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006

Introduction

1. The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) has been the first operation undertaken under the European Security and Defence Policy. It was launched with a three-year mandate starting on 1 January 2003 and continued from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007 with a refocused mandate. Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola from Italy is the current Head of Mission/Police Commissioner.

2. The Mission operates in line with the general objectives of annex 11 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its objectives are supported by European Community instruments.

Methodology and staffing

Staffing

3. On 30 June 2006, EUPM numbered 419 staff (175 international police officers, 29 international civilian experts and 215 national staff). On 31 December 2006, EUPM numbered 414 staff (166 international police officers, 29 international civilian experts and 219 national staff). All 25 States members of the European Union (EU) and 8 non-EU contributing States[1] participated in the Mission in the current reporting period. The Mission takes due account of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security in all its activities, as well as the EU operational paper on practical measures for taking work forward on resolution 1325 (2000) in the context of the European Security and Defence Policy.

Methodology

4. EUPM, under the guidance and coordination of the European Union Special Representative and as part of the broader rule of law approach in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region, aims, through mentoring, monitoring and inspecting, to establish a sustainable, professional and multi-ethnic police service in Bosnia and Herzegovina operating in accordance with best European and international standards.

5. The Mission continued to follow its co-location methodology which, in the previous period, had been reviewed and reorganized into a four-region structure, in line with the four State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) regions, each under the supervision of a Chief Regional Adviser. The Mission also maintains multi-level co-locations with SIPA (the lead agency in the fight against organized crime) and the State Border Service (SBS).

6. As from 1 October 2006, under the direction of the EU Special Representative, EUPM has fully assumed the lead in the coordination of policing aspects of the

[1] Bulgaria, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

efforts of the European Security and Defence Policy in the fight against organized crime. It assists local authorities in planning and conducting major and organized crime investigations. EUPM completed an assessment of organized crime as part of its regular review process, enabling the Mission to strengthen its contribution in support of the fight against organized crime, which will remain the key objective for the Mission for 2007.

7. At the end of the year, EUPM reviewed its structure and priorities in order to increase its effectiveness in assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina police in this task.

General situation

8. The period from 1 July to 31 December 2006 was characterized by a number of political developments relevant to police in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EUPM mandate, among them:

- A slow down in the implementation of reforms. In terms of police reform, Republika Srpska disengaged from active participation in the Directorate for Police Restructuring Implementation, in contradiction with the Agreement on Restructuring of Police Structures of October 2005.
- A tense pre-election campaign, but with a limited number of incidents and a calm and peaceful election day on 1 October.
- The announcement that the Office of the High Representative will begin preparations to close on 30 June 2007, subject to review and confirmation in February 2007, followed by a reinforced EU engagement.

In assessing political developments, the Mission sought guidance from the EU Special Representative as appropriate and continued to benefit from the situational awareness and analysis capabilities of the European Union Monitoring Mission.

9. Although EUPM identified limited shortcomings in the ability of the police services in Bosnia and Herzegovina to effectively maintain public peace and order, overall, the police demonstrated enhanced professionalism together with an increased robustness and resolve, as well as improving multi-ethnic command structures, in dealing with complex public order situations.

10. EUPM continued to advise the appropriate domestic authorities in those areas that remain a source of concern for public order: policing situations involving long-standing disputes over religious symbols, including buildings, politically motivated and/or manipulated incidents, potential for cantonal and entity police services to be perceived as partial. However, despite several serious incidents, EUPM has continued to observe a decrease in the number of ethnic, inter-religious and politically motivated incidents.

Achievements during the reporting period

1. Support of the police restructuring process

11. EUPM has continued to carry out its tasks in support of the police restructuring process. The Head of Mission continued his role as the only international member on the Steering Board of the Directorate for Police

Restructuring Implementation. The Board's 12-month mandate was to provide strategic guidance to the Executive Board of the Directorate on the development of an implementation plan for police restructuring. Their work was concluded on 22 December with the presentation of the Proposed Plan for the Implementation of the Reform of Police Structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

12. In Steering Board proceedings, the Head of Mission promoted a number of progressive solutions and suggestions for restructuring, many of which were adopted by the Board. Nevertheless, the substance of the report is a genuine domestic product, reflecting extensive deliberation and discussion among the Bosnia and Herzegovina policing professionals. The plan was forwarded to the Minister of Security on 27 December and the new Council of Ministers is expected to place this issue on its agenda for discussion early in 2007. The completion of the plan is a major achievement considering the technical and political obstacles encountered, including the fact that the Republika Srpska attended the Steering Board only as an observer.

13. Considering the fact that political decisions still need to be made on the police reform and having in mind the considerable implementation period of this reform, EUPM has continued to address the existing fragmentation in the system by supporting cantons in the development of cantonal laws on police officials, representing the country-wide harmonization of legislation regulating police powers and the employment status of police officials. The Mission facilitated the development of a model law, which as at 31 December has been enacted in 6 out of the 10 cantons. As a next step, with the assistance of EUPM and the Office of the High Representative, 26 complementary by-laws are being developed on internal disciplinary procedure and external accountability mechanisms, rank allocations and conditions for promotion, special police powers as well as police officials' salary calculation. Such laws already exist at the State and Federation levels. In parallel to these efforts, EUPM is mentoring the drafting of laws on police officials for the Republika Srpska and the Brcko District, which also require harmonization.

2. Support in the fight against organized crime

Assisting in the planning and conduct of investigations

14. The EU Crime Strategy Group and its two subcommittees, the EU-European Security and Defence Policy Targeting Board (chaired by EUPM since March 2006) and the Policy Task Force, have been instrumental in the Mission's taking the lead role in the coordination of policing aspects of the European Security and Defence Policy efforts against organized crime and have begun to assist local authorities in planning and conducting major and organized crime investigations. EUPM activities in this area are guided by the agreed principles and guidelines among the European Union Special Representative/Office of the High Representative, EUPM and the European Force (EUFOR). The end state of all European Security and Defence Policy efforts is to pass over, with confidence, full ownership and responsibility for the fight against organized crime to the local police.

15. EUFOR ceased providing planning support at the end of September. Organized-crime-related planning support since 1 October has been provided only by EUPM, in line with its mandate. Thus, the Mission has to endorse requests by local police for operational support from EUFOR. Requests were limited to technical capabilities, specialized EUFOR deployment for sensitive operational

measures, such as high-profile arrests, and the provision of additional criminal intelligence.

16. In parallel, EUPM has produced a comprehensive organized crime situation assessment to guide further Mission work in this field. On the basis of police information the assessment has identified more than 20 significant organized criminal groups active in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through this work EUPM came to realize that local police, including SIPA, are not yet in the position to develop a comparably comprehensive assessment. EUPM is, therefore, uniquely placed to assist the local authorities in their fight against organized crime.

17. Supporting the local police, especially SIPA, to develop towards a more intelligence-led and thereby result-oriented approach, the advisory activity of the Mission during the latter part of 2006 was refocused on criminal analysis and data exchange among the fragmented Bosnia and Herzegovina police services. This is necessary in order to prioritize investigations targeting some of the 20 criminal groups. The Mission has been taking a number of important steps during this period to support the police in this respect. EUPM has also actively pursued its role in assisting in the planning and conduct of a number of individual police organized crime investigations and operations.

18. EUPM has also raised concerns with the State Border Service on the planning and conduct of operations, having noted over several months that some operations being run by SBS units yield no significant results. Various operations lacked reliable assessed intelligence, which hampered results in spite of large numbers of resources being deployed. Following EUPM advice and assistance, smaller, more intelligence-led operations are now being run with some recent notable results in the joint SBS and Indirect Taxation Authority anti-cigarette-smuggling operations along the southern border.

19. The EUPM/SIPA oversight of the reviews of nine high-profile murder investigations from 1998 to 2006 has continued at a rapid pace. EUPM has additionally assisted with key experts to help facilitate these complex organized crime-related investigations. Five of the nine murders are now considered to be cleared; a sixth case shows positive indications that it will shortly be cleared and a seventh has been reopened recently. As a direct result several successful prosecutions regarding murders, financial crime and racketeering are expected shortly. Of equal importance are the links of those murders to influential organized crime figures, which are being investigated.

Relations between police and prosecutors

20. The Criminal Justice Interface Unit continued to identify and address deficiencies in the area of police and prosecutorial cooperation. Already some significant results have been achieved, notably in regard to the reviews of nine high-profile murders (see para. 19).

21. The number of major unsolved crimes, possibly due to corruption, incompetence and/or obstruction, is an indicator of the underdeveloped relations between police and prosecutors at all levels. Among the identified weaknesses are the failure of police and prosecutors to meet; parallel prosecution enquiries without informing the police; lack of understanding among prosecutors of realistic measures required in investigations and/or understanding of staffing implications for the

police; understaffing, in particular at the Bosnia and Herzegovina State level; and crucially, a lack of investigative management capacity and culture. In addition, investigations are held back by delayed prosecutorial approvals, while in some cases there is unequal or arbitrary application of pre-trial custody provisions, where the application of this investigative measure by the prosecution and the judiciary seemingly depends on the suspect's identity. Further, at entity level, coordination and common standards are lacking.

22. EUPM encouraged and supported the State Prosecutor's initiatives, although limited, to play a coordinating role in dealing with some of the above-mentioned concerns, by holding "working days" with police, prosecutors and ministerial representatives. In November, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Chief Prosecutor and the SIPA Director, supported by EUPM, organized a conference on the theme "Towards effective criminal investigations within Bosnia and Herzegovina: improving the cooperation between police and prosecutors" for chief prosecutors and high-ranking police officials at all levels. Participants analysed circumstances in which criminal investigations are currently being conducted, identified shortcomings in police and prosecutor cooperation and proposed specific operational, procedural and legal solutions. A Common [Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor's Office/SIPA] Instruction on Cooperation was introduced that will serve as a model for the entity and cantonal levels, while a pilot project, where prosecutorial representatives are allocated to police bodies, was introduced for the State-level law enforcement agencies. Police-prosecution relations have started to improve, but systematic coordination processes have not yet been established because of the fragmented criminal justice system structures. Nevertheless, the Mission has put forward proposals on common cooperation instructions at entity and cantonal levels in line with those signed in 2005 at the Bosnia and Herzegovina State level.

23. Working with partner agencies, including the United States International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Programme, EUPM has advised on improvements in the legislative and regulatory framework for major and organized crime investigations. Deficiencies in the criminal and criminal procedure codes were highlighted and proposals for improvement were brought to the attention of the competent bodies. EUPM will also continue this work with regard to legislative changes required by the National Action Plan to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption. EUPM also continued monitoring and advising on the development of subsidiary legal acts to implement provisions of the criminal procedure code. With regard to special investigative measures, EUPM advised on the introduction of police administrative regulations regarding informant handling at the Bosnia and Herzegovina State level to improve the interaction between prosecutors and police. These State-level regulations may now serve as a model for entity and cantonal police. EUPM will further promote subsidiary regulations for other special investigative measures, including advice on the lawful interception of telecommunications, and advise on the development of by-laws regulating storage of evidence.

24. In September, EUPM and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened the coordination of their monitoring of the pre-trial and post-indictment aspects of the criminal justice system. Upon provision of arrest information and referral of selected cases, OSCE monitors pre-trial prosecution hearings and subsequent trial proceedings. Deficiencies identified by OSCE are referred back to EUPM in order to allow the

Mission to mentor local police on the application of the criminal law provisions and identify other deficiencies in police investigative practices. EUPM has registered police complaints that there is lack of proper coordination with correctional bodies in the post-sentencing phase of cases, which compromises effective control over sentenced prisoners. This further highlights the need for a holistic criminal justice system approach in supporting the fight against organized crime.

25. In November, as part of continuing efforts to integrate criminal justice system monitoring, EUPM organized meetings with several police services and OSCE, in order to assist OSCE in presenting a juvenile justice system monitoring project. OSCE will be engaging with police, prosecutors, courts, social services and prison services to assess the system by monitoring juvenile cases from arrest onwards, in cooperation with EUPM. The police will provide their views, thus becoming directly involved in this justice reform.

3. Strengthening internal/external control, inspection and accountability of the police

26. The question of police accountability is directly linked both to the police reform and the fight against organized crime. EUPM has applied an inspection methodology to various aspects of police accountability:

- Appointments of police commissioners and directors of police
- Involvement of police in crimes, including war crimes
- Corruption and fraud (mainly in traffic policing, which undermines confidence in the police)
- Gender-related issues
- General misconduct.

The accountability mechanisms and the legal framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina remain insufficient. Because of possible political implications of inspections, the High Representative/EU Special Representative has been regularly informed and political guidance is sought as appropriate. EUPM was given full and unimpeded access to police facilities, personnel, information and files as well as to the police chain of command at all levels.

27. On the basis of information from various sources, including public reports passed to EUPM from personnel in field locations and media allegations, the Mission identified areas for inspections. Suggestions for inspection were reviewed, and in certain cases it was deemed that the appropriate course of action was referral to the local police internal control functions, as opposed to direct Mission involvement, thus encouraging ownership and accountability. Where the Mission has carried out inspections through its two dedicated inspection teams and EUPM resources in locations, its aim has been to encourage the police to identify irregularities and act upon them. EUPM has then continued to oversee the work of internal control functions, or prosecutors as cases are passed to them, to ensure that the cases progress through to a final, conclusive and appropriate result.

28. The key inspection of this period continued to be the evaluation of and investigation into allegations of police corruption and malpractice in the Canton 7 (Mostar) Ministry of the Interior following Operation Granit, which resulted in the

local police commissioner being identified as one of the major suspects for corruption and other offences. It was also found that no disciplinary action had been taken against him by the responsible bodies. In July, EUPM raised its concerns publicly and requested that the local police commissioner suspend two other officials implicated in the investigation and step down from his post. Following the expiration of his mandate in September 2006, the commissioner left his position, but the two other officials remained in place. EUPM consulted with the highest level of the police organization but as the response of the various authorities was not sufficient, EUPM sent comprehensive information on the case to the High Representative/EU Special Representative for consideration. In this context, EUPM has also observed a serious lack of action by the Prosecutor and identified major procedural mistakes. EUPM is dealing with the case in coordination with the High Representative/EU Special Representative to accelerate the work of the Prosecutor in order to conclude the investigation.

29. Operation Granit has been a prime example of the complex interplay of various factors affecting the proper functioning of the police service, including dysfunctional police internal and political oversight mechanisms as well as police-prosecution relations. This all results in serious accountability deficits and undermines the confidence of the public. A proper follow-up (with disciplinary and judicial consequence, where relevant) of inspected cases remains painstakingly slow and politicized in high-profile cases such as Mostar. Nevertheless, inspections have proved an important tool to learn lessons for the police restructuring process, to identify loopholes which can be utilized by criminal groups and also to help in restoring public confidence in the police.

30. EUPM has been mentoring the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior on a range of disciplinary and integrity-related legal issues. The Ministry is now clearly seen to be tackling corruption more robustly. In December, a Chief Disciplinary Prosecutor was appointed, a position created following the recommendation of EUPM. The Mission had identified a clear lack of accountability of disciplinary prosecutors at the lower level, with no one at Ministry level coordinating activity or providing leadership in this area. This should improve the overall effectiveness of all disciplinary prosecutions undertaken within this Ministry.

31. In November, following persistent pressure from EUPM, the long-awaited State-level Police Board appointments were finally approved by the Council of Ministers. The Board will act as a second-instance disciplinary and administrative body responsible for reviewing all decisions by State-level law enforcement agencies pertaining to the status of police officials in accordance with the Law on Police Officials and its by-laws and will fill a gap in the disciplinary and administrative framework for the police.

32. Independent selection and review boards, mandated by parliaments, are responsible for the selection of directors of police and police commissioners in the entities and cantons and can review their performance. The legally prescribed mandate of the board members, as well as the mandate of police officials selected by them, is four years. EUPM is closely monitoring the ongoing process of reselection and appointment of new board members and police commissioners at all levels following the expiration of their original mandates late in 2006.

33. The reselection process within the system has been far from satisfactory. Despite clear legal provisions designed to prevent political interference in the

process, political rather than professional considerations played a significant role in the selection of police commissioners as well as board members. This situation has been exacerbated by the general elections held in the autumn. Shortcomings in the present system have necessitated repeated EUPM assistance in interpreting relevant legal texts governing this area. However, while far from perfect, the independent selection and review boards system has proved its merits in limiting political interference. EUPM will thus continue to assist domestic authorities in developing short-term solutions and advocate for the drafting of a comprehensive legal regime for the reformed police in Bosnia and Herzegovina that would provide for a more efficient and professional selection process.

4. Horizontal tasks

Follow-on finalization and implementation of EUPM projects

34. EUPM continued to follow the implementation and finalization of projects launched during 2003-2005 in close cooperation with the Bosnia and Herzegovina police experts co-located within the department. The reliability and sustainability of these projects required a minimum of further engagement, in the form of inspections of the programmes or projects to ensure implementation of the obligations and the recommendations from the earlier project evaluation reports. The inspections started in the summer and many projects, especially those concerning organized crime, SIPA and the Republika Srpska, reached completion in the last period.

35. As an outcome of the comprehensive review in the spring, EUPM was encouraged to play a coordinating role vis-à-vis the donor community in Sarajevo, given that the development of capacity and confidence of local police in fighting organized crime requires further technical assistance, as well as provision of equipment. Accordingly, the Mission has undertaken a continuous mapping of activities and strategies of the bilateral donors in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies, in close coordination with the European Commission. In November, EUPM hosted a conference on coordination of donors in the field of policing, as a follow-on to the donor coordination initiative of April, attended by embassy representatives and international organizations. This was used as a practical opportunity to address donors with the needs of SIPA and SBS through the relevant presentations given by EUPM and the EU Coordination Office. Lastly, substantial amounts of equipment have been donated to the police over the last years. EUPM has initiated a quality assessment to inform the main donors, namely, the European Commission and the International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Programme, about the state and the use of this material.

36. In November, a memorandum of understanding relating to the establishment of a new telecommunication system for Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies was signed by all police services and other judicial and relevant bodies. The system will improve communication and coordination between the law enforcement agencies and act as a technical support in the implementation of operational measures. EUPM gave considerable legal and technical advice in drawing up the agreement and played a coordinating role in facilitating the participation of all law enforcement agencies and in securing European Commission funding.

Further support for the development of the State Investigation and Protection Agency and the State Border Service

37. The second target end-state for EUPM is the full establishment of the State-level agencies and preparing SIPA and SBS to be fully operational in order to meet the domestic and international commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both agencies are in the critical stages of development. EUPM has invested considerable effort in assisting in their institutional and capacity development and continued to advise on improvements to their internal legal, administrative and budget frameworks. This has also involved EUPM input to the joint working group of the two agencies on the Law on Police Officials, which has continued in this period to amend and refine the State-level Law as it affects these two agencies.

38. Specifically regarding SIPA self-sustainability, EUPM has continued to monitor the newly established case management system, which SIPA is using effectively. EUPM has also made tangible progress in the build-up of permanent headquarters and regional offices. Through the relevant departments of the Office of the High Representative/EU Special Representative, EUPM lobbied to ensure that minimum required financial resources are earmarked to start the construction of the permanent premises within the budgetary year 2007. EUPM has also advised on the relocation of SIPA regional offices to larger and non-rented premises, to allow for staff expansion and better sustainability.

39. Following the Mission's advice, in November, SIPA started training its first class of cadets, made up of university graduates qualified in specific areas. Previously, SIPA staff were recruited only from the pool of active police officials working in other law enforcement agencies. The cadet training will help SIPA to hire younger, better qualified, professionally selected and trained officers who can provide expertise in specialized areas such as organized crime and terrorism. This process is being closely monitored by EUPM. Also following EUPM advice, SIPA has started to internally review all legal regulations to identify those which limit effective decision-making by management regarding personnel, promotions, transfers, ranking and the like, in order to improve the functioning and to help ensure its stability and self-sustainability. EUPM has also encouraged SIPA to focus on strategic issues concerning the fight against organized crime and accordingly to strengthen its capacities and support functions to successfully satisfy these needs.

40. One of the main successes in the development of support functions in this period is the full establishment of the SIPA Special Support Unit, which celebrated its first anniversary in September 2006. In only a few months and under the full monitoring of EUPM, the three teams of the Special Support Unit have carried out a number of operations and arrests, mostly at the request of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor's Office. It is the Mission's assessment that the unit is now fully operational and has the capacity to perform all its required tasks. EUPM has also assisted the development of other support functions in SIPA in the reporting period, including the development of the computer forensics system, enhancing the capacity of the SIPA Operations Centre and the technical and mobile surveillance capacities.

41. With regard to the State Border Service, EUPM has assisted and monitored the creation of the 2007 annual workplan and has continued to mentor the agency in improving its criminal investigation capacity. This included advising on the development of a new instruction on informant handling and continued support to

the already-established case management system. Assistance was also provided to the implementation of the integrated border management strategy and facilitation of the establishment of the SBS and Indirect Tax Authority working group, mandated to make proposals for and guide the implementation of the agreement on cooperation with the Tax Authority.

42. To contribute to its self-sustainability, SBS made a great effort to produce, in cooperation with EUPM, a new recruitment policy. This will result in the incorporation of 100 new officers and 20 inspectors by the end of June 2007. The distribution of the new staff will be in full accordance with the national balance principle, with the aim of reaching the figure of 10 per cent female officers. Accordingly, during November, EUPM intensively monitored and advised on the activities and preparations of the SBS Central Selection Commission, regarding 3,320 candidates for these new positions. Following the pre-selection, 2,351 candidates were called for examination by the five subcommissions at different locations. EUPM monitored the process and assessed that the tests were conducted in a professional manner.

Police certification

43. Police decertification remains an issue of concern for the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities, who have requested a review mechanism. The High Representative/EU Special Representative wrote to the President of the Security Council in August asking the United Nations to determine such a mechanism and continued to explore other options during the last six months. In December, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers adopted a decision on the establishment of a national commission for the revision of individual cases of decertified police officers who had initiated legal proceedings before courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Given the implications of such a decision, notably with regard to relevant Security Council resolutions and annex 11 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, the High Representative/EU Special Representative called upon the Council of Minsters to contact the Security Council and the United Nations Secretariat as a matter of urgency.

United Nations A/ES-10/382–S/2007/119

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 March 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 1 March 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Since our last letter dated 26 February 2007, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continued to suffer the brunt of Israeli military aggression. Israeli military incursions and extrajudicial executions have continued unabated in the occupied West Bank, namely in Nablus and Jenin. Meanwhile, the residents of those besieged cities continue to suffer from the destruction and terror that those military attacks cause.

Today, 1 March 2007, the Israeli occupying forces carried out an incursion into the Al-Fara'a refugee camp, north-east of Nablus city, during which they arrested three residents and injured at least four others. The incursion included house-to-house searches and the surrounding of a number of other homes and mosques. Nearby, in the villages of Tammoun and Al-Yamoun, a tight siege was imposed by the Israeli occupying forces. So far, at least two Palestinians have been detained in Al-Yamoun village. The Israeli occupying forces also raided today the city of Qalqilya and the town of Barqeen south-west of Jenin.

These incursions and detention campaigns follow the extrajudicial execution of three Palestinians in the West Bank city of Jenin on 28 February 2007, at the hands of an Israeli occupying forces undercover unit that infiltrated the city in the early morning hours.

In parallel, there is an ongoing wide-scale Israeli incursion into the city of Nablus in which at least 150 military vehicles and bulldozers have been used. So far, one Palestinian civilian has been killed in Nablus and at least 30 others injured, while Israeli occupying forces have detained family members of Palestinians they claim are "wanted". The occupying forces have also imposed siege to the city's three hospitals and converted a number of schools in the city into interrogation centres.

07-25458 (E) 050307

These outright acts of military aggression are going hand-in-hand with other aggressive Israeli plans and actions that are chipping away at any hope of finding a political horizon and, in turn, a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as they aim to create seemingly irreversible facts on the ground that jeopardize the possibility of a two-State solution.

In East Jerusalem, Israeli occupying authorities are drawing up plans to build a new illegal settlement, comprising 11,000 housing units near Qalandia, north of Jerusalem. This is one of the most outrageous attempts by far of the Israeli occupation to further complicate the situation on the ground in or around occupied East Jerusalem, which continues to be economically choked by closure and under threat culturally.

In addition, recent statements by the Israeli Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, cast doubts on the Israeli commitment to a peaceful settlement, a two-State solution, and the road map. Ms. Livni has declared that Israel cannot accept the Arab peace initiative in its current form, adding that the 1967 borders of the future Palestinian State pose a problem for Israel. This statement is indicative of the lack of commitment and goodwill on the part of the current Israeli Government towards the peace process. At the same time, it reflects the degree of impunity which Israel, the occupying Power, exercises towards its international commitments given the lack of accountability it has enjoyed in the international arena.

We are gravely alarmed by the overall situation on the ground which, taking into consideration the plans and statements made by senior Israeli officials, project a reality in which chances for peace and reaching an end to the conflict are seriously diminished rather than encouraged. Furthermore, given the unwarranted and barbaric aggression by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian cities in the West Bank and the continued siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, which has driven the majority of its 1.4 million residents to the brink of starvation, it is incumbent upon the international community to assume its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people and to uphold international law. The international community, particularly the Security Council, must intervene to put an end to the Israeli aggression on the ground immediately and to ensure Israeli compliance with its commitments and obligations vis-à-vis relevant international resolutions and initiatives because continued inaction on the part of the international community will only encourage more impunity and increased tension in the region.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 278 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 February 2007 (A/ES-10/381-S/2007/109), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that since 4 January 2007, at least 13 more Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,461. The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Annex to the identical letters dated 1 March 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Monday, 15 January 2007, to Wednesday, 28 February 2007)

Monday, 15 January 2007

1. Moussa Qarmout
2. Kamal Khedr (age 19)

Thursday, 1 February 2007

3. Taha Mohammad Al-Hanjalawi (age 17)
4. Amer Bassam Kalbouna
5. Wa'el Awad

Friday, 2 February 2007

6. Khaldoun Shuman
7. Mohammad Abu Arab

Tuesday, 13 February 2007

8. Mohammad Shakir Al-Sa'eedi

Saturday, 24 February 2007

9. Yusra Al-Rijbi (age 60)

Monday, 26 February 2007

10. Anan Al-Tibi

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

11. Ashraf Al-Sa'adi
12. Mohammad Abu Naa'sa
13. Alaa' Braiki

---

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,461.

United Nations A/61/775–S/2007/120

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 27
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 10 February 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as a representative of the country coordinator of the GUAM-area countries (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the GUAM member States regarding the so-called local and parliamentary elections in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Viktor **Kryzhanivskyi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-25583 (E) 050307

Annex to the letter dated 10 February 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the GUAM member States regarding the so-called local and parliamentary elections in Abkhazia, Georgia

The GUAM member States express their deep concern over the so-called local and parliamentary elections to be held in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 11 February and 4 March 2007.

We stress that any elections in the territory of Georgia should be carried out in accordance with the legislation of Georgia and with the direct participation of the entire population of the region. The illegitimate separatist regime in Abkhazia, Georgia, is intending to hold so-called elections without the participation of the overwhelming majority of the local population, predominantly Georgians, who were forcibly expelled from the region owing to a grave crime against humanity — ethnic cleansing fixed in the final documents of the Budapest (1994), Lisbon (1996) and Istanbul (1999) summits of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The so-called elections run contrary to the standards and values of democracy and the rule of law while being conducted in the region, where fundamental human rights and freedoms, especially of ethnic Georgians, are subject to gross and mass violations as reflected in the reports of various international organizations. It cannot be claimed that such elections have any kind of legitimacy and their results a priori must be considered null and void.

The GUAM member States strongly condemn holding the so-called local and parliamentary elections by the unrecognized separatist regime as destructive acts, mainly directed against the peace process and designed to impose a fait accompli situation for misleading the international community.

The GUAM member States underline that any support or call for support to the so-called elections contradicts the universally recognized norms and principles of international law pertaining to the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the inviolability of their internationally recognized borders and the inadmissibility of interference in their internal affairs.

The GUAM member States call upon all the States Members of the United Nations (Council of Europe, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and other international organizations to condemn such illegal acts and support the ongoing efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, based on the territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

United Nations S/2007/121

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 2 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to you to address a matter of concern to Rwanda.

You will recall that on 17 May 1994 in the midst of the unfolding genocide committed by the then Government of Rwanda, the Security Council of the United Nations had adopted resolution 918 (1994) which imposed an arms embargo on Rwanda. The same resolution established a Committee of the Council, consisting of all States members of the Council, to monitor implementation of the provisions of the resolution.

The embargo imposed under paragraph 13 of the resolution was lifted for the Government of Rwanda on 1 September 1996 pursuant to resolution 1011 (1995), although it is still in effect for non-State actors. Resolution 1011 (1995) also stipulated that all exports of arms or related materiel to Rwanda should be brought to the attention of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994).

In a statement issued on 11 September 1996 (press release SC/6265), the Chairman of the Committee declared that no notification would be required for arms exporting countries or importations by the Government of Rwanda. This decision was reiterated in the Committee's report to the Security Council for 1996 (S/1997/15, annex). This situation has remained unchanged since then.

In its report to the Security Council of 28 December 2006 (S/2006/1049, annex), as transmitted by Ambassador César Mayoral (Argentina), in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee, the Committee requested the Council to decide on the future status of the notification requirement.

The Government of Rwanda is aware that there are politically motivated attempts to revive the notification requirement. I wish to appeal to members of the Security Council not to allow the solemn mandate entrusted to them by the Charter of the United Nations to be abused or blemished by States that seek to settle old scores using the Council.

I would like to recall that the arms embargo imposed in resolution 918 (1994) had been directed at the Government that had committed the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. As you are aware, that Government was deposed in July 1994. Since then, Rwanda has successfully emerged from conflict and is on a steady and sound path

07-25735 (E) 060307

towards economic and social development. I would encourage the Security Council to acknowledge this progress and not to maintain the notification requirement which now seems extraneous.

I would also encourage the Security Council to take account of the positive developments in the wider subregion, particularly the signing on 15 December 2006 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of Africa at the Second Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. There has also been commendable progress in achieving peace, security and democratization in the region over the last several years.

I also wish to recall Rwanda's contributions to international peace and security by providing military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Haiti, as well as African Union missions in Darfur and the Comoros. These contributions demonstrate Rwanda's commitment to international peace and security, and are at variance with the spirit of the notification requirement that was imposed over 11 years ago.

Furthermore, I am sure there will be little doubt that these requirements would impede efforts to ensure that our personnel serving under United Nations and African Union mandates continue to be well equipped for peacekeeping duties. We urge the Security Council to address this issue urgently.

I would therefore like to request the Security Council, through you, to abrogate the provision of Council resolution 1011 (1995) requiring that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) receive notification of all exports of arms or related materiel to Rwanda. We see no continuing justification for this provision.

Finally, I wish to request that the present letter be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Committee, and that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph **Nsengimana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2007/122

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 5 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Russian Federation in January 2007 (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

07-25872 (E) 080307

Annex to the letter dated 5 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Russian Federation (January 2007)

Introduction

On 8 January 2007 the Security Council welcomed Ban Ki-moon — participating for the first time in his capacity as United Nations Secretary-General in a formal debate of the Security Council — and committed itself, within its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to continue to work closely and in a focused and action-oriented manner with the Secretary-General to better address the world's multifaceted and interconnected threats to international peace and security, including armed conflict, terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/1), in which it emphasized that the present global challenges and threats demanded a resolute and coherent response, based on the collective security system of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular requesting more regular reporting on regions of potential armed conflict and more focus in peacekeeping on the need to achieve the objectives of the mission, and emphasizing the importance of peacebuilding. The Council also pledged to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of sovereign equality, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, and underlined further the need for respect for human rights and the rule of law, including protection of civilians in armed conflict, and the importance of adhering to the principles of refraining, in international relations, from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and of peaceful settlement of international disputes.

During the presidency of the Russian Federation, in January 2007, the Security Council held 14 meetings, including debates on threats to international peace and security and on post-conflict peacebuilding, and 14 sessions of informal consultations; three resolutions and two presidential statements were adopted.

Africa

Central African Republic

In informal consultations on 15 January, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lamine Cissé, presented the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA).

The members of the Council noted with concern that the situation in the northern regions of the country had deteriorated, because of the attacks of the insurgents in October and November 2006. Those attacks had resulted in the

occupation of several towns which were subsequently liberated by the Government forces, supported by French contingents and the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

The instability led to a new flow of refugees and internally displaced persons to the neighbouring Sudan, which affected bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Council members urged the Government of the Central African Republic to normalize relations with the Sudan. At the same time they acknowledged that the still unresolved crisis in Darfur had a negative impact on the overall situation in the subregion.

It was emphasized that the Government should accelerate the pace of security sector reform with the technical support of BONUCA and take further steps towards reaching a national consensus based on broad and representative political dialogue under the auspices of BONUCA.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 10 January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1739 (2007), extending the mandates of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French forces supporting it until 30 June 2007. The resolution outlines major aspects and key tasks to be carried out by UNOCI and the French forces with a view to holding open, free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in Côte d'Ivoire by 31 October 2007.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

At an open meeting on 9 January, the Security Council heard a briefing by the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, on the involvement of the European Union force and its assistance to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in providing security during the election campaign in the country.

The Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs, Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Ibrahim Gambari, thanked the European Union for having agreed to deploy a force during the electoral period at the request of the United Nations and also informed the Council about the efforts of their Departments to assist the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in conducting and participating in the elections, which were the largest and most complex the United Nations has ever helped to organize.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

At a private meeting on 16 January, the Council and the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) heard a briefing by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the latest developments in the peace process between the two countries.

Later that day, in informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, presented to the Council the Secretary-

General's special report of 15 December 2006 (S/2006/992) pursuant to resolution 1710 (2006), containing options for a possible reconfiguration of UNMEE.

On 30 January the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1741 (2007), by which it extended the mandate of UNMEE for a period of six months, until 31 July 2007, and authorized a further reduction of the military component of the force from 2,300 to 1,700 military personnel.

Somalia

On 10 January, in informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Security Council on the situation in Somalia.

During the discussion the Council members emphasized the need for inclusive political dialogue within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter between all Somali groups and clans, including moderate representatives of the ousted Union of Islamic Courts, with a view to stabilizing the situation in the country.

The Council expressed its support for the deployment as soon as possible of the authorized African peacekeeping force in Somalia, which would help to create the necessary conditions for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country and the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

Chad-Sudan

In informal consultations on 10 January, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan, and presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on that subject.

At a public meeting on 16 January, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/2) in which it reiterated its concern at the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic, which posed a threat to the safety of the civilian population, noted the intention of the Secretary-General to authorize the immediate return of the technical assessment mission to the region in order to complete its observations, and called on the Secretary-General to submit to the Council by mid-February updated and finalized recommendations on the size, structure and mandate of a possible United Nations multidimensional presence in Chad and the Central African Republic.

In the presidential statement the Council also requested the Secretary-General to deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic to accelerate preparations for an early decision on such a presence.

Americas

Haiti

On 29 January the Council held a private meeting for troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Then, in informal consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Edmond Mulet, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of MINUSTAH and briefed the Council on the current situation in Haiti. He pointed out that, despite a series of successful operations by MINUSTAH and

the Haitian National Police against criminal groups in December and January, the country still needs a sustained international assistance. The Council members commended the recommendations of the Secretary-General and urged the Government of Haiti to intensify its cooperation with MINUSTAH, especially in combating banditry and reforming government institutions. They also called on the Haitian authorities to bring to an end the flows of arms and narcotics into the country.

Asia

Iraq

On 29 January the President sent letters to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations asking them on behalf of the Council to speed up the process aimed at resolving the remaining issues in the framework of the "oil-for-food" programme, which will make it possible to settle the payments issue between the Government of Iraq and the participants in the programme and open the way for the final closure of the "oil-for-food" file. The Council also asked the Secretariat to keep it informed about developments in its talks with the Iraqi side.

Myanmar

On 12 January, the Security Council failed to adopt a draft resolution on Myanmar, co-sponsored by the United Kingdom and the United States, owing to the negative votes of two permanent members, China and the Russian Federation. The resolution received 9 votes in favour, 3 against, South Africa also voting against, and 3 abstentions (Congo, Indonesia and Qatar).

Nepal

In informal consultations on 11 January, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ian Martin, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in its peace process. He also briefed the Council on the latest developments in the country in a follow-up to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) on 21 November 2006.

The Council members commended the progress in the peace process and endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General to deploy as soon as possible the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) with a view to monitoring various aspects of the ceasefire agreement as well as rendering technical assistance to the parties for the election of the Constituent Assembly to be held by the end of June.

On 23 January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1740 (2007), establishing UNMIN for a period of 12 months.

The situation in the Middle East

In an open briefing followed by informal consultations on 25 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council members on the situation in the Middle East. He said that in the past month there had been

heightened levels of instability and suffering in the region of the Middle East, combined with a renewed international sense of the urgency of finding a political way ahead.

On 15 January the Council acknowledged, in a letter from its President to the Secretary-General, his intention to appoint new commanders for the United Nations forces in the Middle East, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Europe

Georgia

On 24 January, at a private meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Jean Arnault, presented the latest progress report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2007/15).

During the consultations of the whole, the members of the Council welcomed some progress in the implementation of resolution 1716 (2006), including the resumption of joint patrolling in the upper Kodori valley by the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping force, but expressed concern at the security incidents reported in the Secretary-General's report and at the humanitarian situation in the conflict zone. It was reiterated that this monitoring should be continued on a regular basis. The members of the Council stressed the need for full observance of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces as a key instrument in preventing political tension from descending into violence. The Council appealed to both sides to exercise maximum restraint, overcome mistrust and engage in sustained dialogue to prevent escalation of the situation on the ground. The hope was expressed that the forthcoming high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General at Geneva would provide impetus towards the resumption of negotiations leading to a lasting settlement of the conflict.

Other issues

Lebanon: International Independent Investigation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1595 (2005), 1636 (2005), 1644 (2005)

The Security Council held a series of consultations to address the situation described in paragraph 103 of the report of 12 December 2006 of the International Independent Investigation Commission (S/2006/962), namely, that responses to 22 requests for assistance sent by the Commission to 10 separate Member States were overdue. Some other members of the Council drew attention, in particular, to the statement of the Commissioner, Serge Brammertz, to the effect that lack of responsiveness by certain States had serious consequences in terms of delay for the work of the Commission and its investigative process, and expressed their concern in respect of that situation. The proposal was made to request the Commissioner to disclose the names of non-cooperating States and to urge those States to cooperate fully and unconditionally with the Commission as provided for in resolution 1636 (2005). Several delegations did not support this idea, recalling that the Commissioner had publicly stated that he was not willing to disclose any names,

that the problem was not wilful non-cooperation so much as problems connected to domestic legal systems, and that he would try to work with those countries before, if there was no progress, eventually reverting to the United Nations Secretariat.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 11 January, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, Ambassador Peter Burian, on the activities of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. After the briefing, the representatives of the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements.

Bureaux of subsidiary bodies

On 18 January, a note by the President was issued and agreed on the composition of the Bureaux of all subsidiary bodies of the Council.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 23 January, the Council discussed in informal consultations issues related to post-conflict peacebuilding, including the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, with a briefing by the head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, Carolyn McAskie.

On 31 January, the Council held an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding. Among the 40 speakers were the President of the Economic and Social Council, Dalius Čekuolis; the Chairman of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins; the Assistant Secretary-General in the Peacebuilding Support Office, Carolyn McAskie; the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, Chairman of the country-specific meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone, Frank Majoor; the Permanent Representative of Norway, Vice-Chairman of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission and Chairman of the country-specific meeting on Burundi, Johan Løvald; the Permanent Representative of Burundi, Joseph Ntakirutimana; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, Sylvester Ekundayo Rowe; the Special Representative of the World Bank to the United Nations, Oscar Avalle; and the Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations, Reinhard Munzberg. The Council members, as well as 16 other States, including Germany on behalf of the European Union, Jamaica on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Canada on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, made statements during the open debate.

The open debate in the Council provided an important occasion to reflect on the work of the Peacebuilding Commission established as an outcome of the 2005 World Summit by concurrent resolutions of the General Assembly (60/180) and the Security Council (1645 (2005)) — one of the key achievements of the United Nations reform process. The discussion centred inter alia on practical steps to improve peacebuilding across key aspects of the work of the United Nations, the importance of additional impetus to a mutually reinforcing partnership between the principal organs and among all those who are contributing to peacebuilding and a

range of ways that would facilitate the constructive work of the Commission and its closer links with principal organs of the United Nations.

In line with its resolution 1646 (2005), in which the Security Council decided that two non-permanent members of the Council would be selected annually, in addition to the permanent members, to participate in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Council unanimously agreed, on 12 January, to the selection of Panama and South Africa for a term of one year, until 31 December 2007.